

What is Claimed is:

1. A method implemented at a Web server for controlling the interruption and resumption of access to a World Wide Web page to be supplied by the Web server and requiring at least one prerequisite, comprising:

receiving and evaluating a current HTTP request from a Web client to determine whether a previously unsatisfied prerequisite has been satisfied;

retrieving from a stored location information relating to a target HTTP request previously interrupted by the prerequisite, if the receiving and evaluating step determines that a previously unsatisfied prerequisite has been satisfied;

forming an HTTP response, which response includes contents for re-requesting from the Web client the target HTTP request; and

transmitting the response to the Web client that transmitted the current HTTP request.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the prerequisite is an authentication prerequisite.

3. The method according to claim 1, wherein the prerequisite is an entitlement prerequisite.

4. The method according to claim 1, wherein the prerequisite is a workflow prerequisite.

5. The method according to claim 1, wherein the information relating to the target HTTP request, retrieved from the stored location, includes the original target URL, queries, and form arguments.

6. The method according to claim 1, wherein the information relating to the target HTTP request, retrieved from the stored location, includes sufficient additional state information, so that re-request contents within the HTTP response are adequate for the Web client to repeat the target HTTP request as originally transmitted.

7. The method according to claim 1, wherein the information relating to the target HTTP request, retrieved from the stored location, includes the type of prerequisite previously unsatisfied for the target HTTP request.

8. The method according to claim 1, wherein the stored location uses client-side session state.

9. The method according to claim 1, wherein the stored location uses server-side session state.

10. The method according to claim 1, wherein the HTTP response formed includes content to cause the Web client to automatically re-request the target HTTP request.

11. The method according to claim 1, wherein the HTTP response formed includes content to inform and allow the user of the Web client to optionally re-request the target HTTP request.

12. A method implemented at a Web server for controlling the interruption and resumption of access to a World Wide Web page to be supplied by the Web server and requiring at least one prerequisite, comprising:

receiving and evaluating a current HTTP request from a Web client to determine whether an unsatisfied prerequisite exists;

saving to a stored location information concerning the current HTTP request, if the receiving and evaluating step determines that an unsatisfied prerequisite exists;

forming an HTTP response, which response omits desired contents from a location specified by the current HTTP request; and

transmitting the response to the Web client that transmitted the current HTTP request.

13. The method according to claim 7, wherein the prerequisite is an authentication prerequisite.

14. The method according to claim 7, wherein the prerequisite is an entitlement prerequisite.

15. The method according to claim 7, wherein the prerequisite is a workflow prerequisite.

16. The method according to claim 12, wherein the information saved to the stored location includes the current URL, queries, and form arguments.

17. The method according to claim 12, wherein the information saved to the stored location includes sufficient additional state information, so that an HTTP response may later be generated containing contents adequate for the Web client to re-request the current HTTP request as originally transmitted.

18. The method according to claim 12, wherein the information saved to the stored location further includes the type of prerequisite that is unsatisfied.

19. The method according to claim 12, wherein the stored location uses client-side session state.

20. The method according to claim 12, wherein the stored location uses server-side session state.

21. The method according to claim 12, wherein the HTTP response formed includes content to inform and allow the user of the Web client to optionally initiate activity to satisfy the unsatisfied prerequisite.

22. A Web server for controlling the interruption and resumption of access to a World Wide Web page to be supplied by the Web server and requiring at least one prerequisite comprising:

a first mechanism configured to evaluate a current HTTP request from a Web client to determine whether a previously unsatisfied prerequisite has been satisfied;

a second mechanism configured to retrieve from a stored location information relating to a target HTTP request previously interrupted by the prerequisite, in response to the first mechanism determining that a previously unsatisfied prerequisite has been satisfied;

a third mechanism configured to form an HTTP response, which response includes contents for re-requesting from the Web client the target HTTP request; and

a fourth mechanism configured to transmit the response to the Web client that transmitted the current HTTP request.

23. The Web server according to claim 22, wherein each of the first, second, third, fourth, and fifth mechanisms are implemented in software.

24. The Web server according to claim 22, further including a fifth mechanism configured to save to a stored location an original target URL, queries, and form arguments.

25. The Web server according to claim 22, further including a sixth mechanism configured to form an HTTP response, which response omits desired contents from a location specified by the original target URL.

26. The Web server according to claim 22, further including a seventh mechanism configured to transmit the response formed by the sixth mechanism to the user that transmitted the current HTTP request.

27. The Web server according to claim 22, wherein the Web server collectively comprises multiple computers that collaborate.

28. A Web server for controlling the interruption and resumption of access to a World Wide Web page to be supplied by the Web server and requiring at least one prerequisite comprising:

a first mechanism configured to evaluate a current HTTP request from a Web client to determine whether an unsatisfied prerequisite exists;

a second mechanism configured to save to a stored location information relating to the current HTTP request, in response to the first mechanism determining that an unsatisfied prerequisite exists;

a third mechanism configured to form an HTTP response, which response omits desired contents from a location specified by the current HTTP request; and

a fourth mechanism configured to transmit the response to the Web client that transmitted the current HTTP request.

29. The Web server according to claim 28, further including a fifth mechanism configured to determine, from the current HTTP request, whether a previously unsatisfied prerequisite has been satisfied.